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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/534,160	05/05/2005	Francois Jean-Charles Natt	DC/4-32768A	9963

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CORPORATE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
ONE HEALTH PLAZA 104/3
EAST HANOVER, NJ 07936-1080

EXAMINER

MCINTOSH III, TRAVISS C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1623

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	04/06/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/534,160

Applicant(s)

NATT ET AL.

Examiner

Traviss C. McIntosh

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 May 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

The listing of references in the specification is not a proper information disclosure statement. 37 CFR 1.98(b) requires a list of all patents, publications, or other information submitted for consideration by the Office, and MPEP § 609.04(a) states, "the list may not be incorporated into the specification but must be submitted in a separate paper." Therefore, unless the references have been cited by the examiner on form PTO-892, they have not been considered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 is drawn to a compound wherein R₁ is a purine or pyrimidine base or a "derivative of such base or any other residue which serves as a nucleoside surrogate". In the absence of the identity of moieties intended to modify an art recognized chemical core, described structurally or by chemical name, the identity of a "derivative" would be difficult to ascertain. In the absence of said moieties, the claims containing the term "derivative" are not described particularly sufficiently to distinctly point out that which applicant intends as the invention.

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Moreover, the phrase “any other residue which serves as a nucleobase surrogate” is seen to be indefinite. It is noted that there are two separate requirements set forth in this paragraph: (A) the claims must set forth the subject matter that applicants regard as their invention; and (B) the claims must particularly point out and distinctly define the metes and bounds of the subject matter that will be protected by the patent grant. If the language of the claim is such that a person of ordinary skill in the art could not interpret the metes and bounds of the claim so as to understand how to avoid infringement, a rejection of the claim under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, would be appropriate. See *Morton Int'l, Inc. v. Cardinal Chem. Co.*, 5 F.3d 1464, 1470, 28 USPQ2d 1190, 1195 (Fed. Cir. 1993). The examiner believes the use of such vague language would not afford the skilled artisan a clear understanding of the metes and bounds of the claim, and thus how to avoid infringement.

Claims 1, 14, and 17 define R₂ as optionally a “**substituted** derivative of phosphoric acid”. In the absence of the identity of moieties which are intended to be substituted, thus modifying an art recognized chemical core, described structurally or by chemical name, the identity of “substituted” would be difficult to ascertain. In the absence of said moieties, all claims containing the term “substituted” are not described sufficiently to distinctly point out that which applicant intends as the invention.

In claims 1, 8, and 15, the phrase “R₄, R₅, or R₆ are independently alkyl or aryl or a combination of alkyl and aryl or heteroatom” is confusing. Does applicant mean the R-groups can be alkyl or aryl or heteroatom or a combination of alkyl and aryl? Or does applicant mean the R-groups can be alkyl, aryl, alkyl and aryl, or alkyl and heteroatom? It is unclear what is

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intended. moreover, it is noted if the heteroatom, i.e., O, were connected to Si, it would be a charged radical, and it is unclear if this is what applicants are intending.

In claims 1-6, 8 and 11 applicants state that at least one of the R_{4-6} groups comprises a tertiary C-atom or a heteroatom "vicinal to" the Si-atom. It is noted that the accepted meaning in chemistry for vicinal is any two functional groups bonded to two adjacent carbon atoms. See Wikipedia definition. However, from reviewing applicant's disclosure, it appears applicants are intending the tertiary carbon atom to be adjacent to the Si group (see compound 6 on page 9). Where applicant acts as his or her own lexicographer to specifically define a term of a claim contrary to its ordinary meaning, the written description must clearly redefine the claim term and set forth the uncommon definition so as to put one reasonably skilled in the art on notice that the applicant intended to so redefine that claim term. *Process Control Corp. v. HydReclaim Corp.*, 190 F.3d 1350, 1357, 52 USPQ2d 1029, 1033 (Fed. Cir. 1999). The term is indefinite because the specification does not clearly redefine the term. Moreover, it is noted that upon clarity of that which is actually intended to be attached and where to the Si moiety, a scope of enablement rejection may be required, as it appears applicants have only made compounds having (1,1,2-trimethyl-propyl)-dimethylsilyloxymethyl 2'-protecting groups.

Claim 5 is indefinite as the claim appears to attempt to broaden claim 1, as claim 1 states that R_{4-6} may optionally be a heteroatom, and claim 5 then states the R-group "comprises a substituted heteroatom", which is seen to be outside the scope of a "heteroatom". Claims 6 and 11 are indefinite for the same reason.

All claims which depend from an indefinite claim are also indefinite. *Ex parte Cordova*, 10 U.S.P.Q. 2d 1949, 1952 (P.T.O. Bd. App. 1989).

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Traviss C. McIntosh whose telephone number is 571-272-0657. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Shaojia A. Jiang can be reached on 571-272-0627. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Traviss McIntosh
March 29, 2007

Shaojia A. Jiang
Supervisory Patent Examiner
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 4/2/07